

**STATEMENT OF THE LEADER**

**AGENDA ITEM: 10**

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**Covid-19 Update**

I was pleased to lead a briefing for members that was held on 17 September 2020, which provided a comprehensive overview of the current position in Cardiff in terms of the numbers of confirmed cases of Covid-19, the work being undertaken by the Test, Track, Protect (TTP) team covering the Cardiff and Vale of Glamorgan region and the enhanced measures being put in place by the Council and public service partners to help prevent the further spread of the virus.

I'm sure that those members who attended the briefing can take confidence from the information provided that the successful partnership working between Cardiff Council, Vale of Glamorgan Council, Shared Regulatory Services and Cardiff & Vale University Health Board, together with Public Health Wales, to deliver the TTP project means that we have been able to monitor, share intelligence and respond effectively to any identified cases or clusters of the virus.

Members will be aware that the Welsh Government has recently announced localised lockdown measures in the neighbouring local authorities of Caerphilly and Rhondda Cynon Taf (RCT) in response to specific local increases in the number of positive Covid-19 cases. The R rate for Wales as a whole is currently estimated at 1.4. Meanwhile, numbers in Cardiff have stabilised at around 20 cases per 100,000 population during a 7-day period and the number of positive tests are slightly below 2% as of 17 September 2020. Most new cases are associated with known clusters or result from exposure to high risk areas outside the Cardiff & Vale region.

We continue to be concerned about the potential for case numbers to rise in Cardiff too. Currently, the position here is relatively stable, but the situation can change very quickly as it has in other local authority areas. We are monitoring the trajectory of cases in Cardiff closely, as well as the reasons behind the growth. We are also prepared to respond proactively and robustly to any significant viral spread within the local community.

I also welcome the announcement made earlier this week by the Welsh Government that the Dragon's Heart hospital at the Principality Stadium will be replaced with a new £33m 400-bed facility next to the University Hospital of Wales to help manage any potential increase in admissions caused by Covid-19.

I want to reassure members that robust arrangements are in place in Cardiff, and across the region, to review case numbers and clusters and to identify any additional containment measures should that be necessary. I am committed to keeping members updated on the position in Cardiff as it develops over the coming weeks heading into the crucial winter period.

### **Fast Track Cities**

On 16 September 2020, Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan became the eighth UK region to be recognised as a Fast Track City after Aberdeen, Brighton and Hove, Bristol, Glasgow, Liverpool, London, and Manchester. The Fast Track Cities initiative is a global partnership committed to ending the AIDS epidemic. The network launched on World AIDS Day 2014 and has grown to include more than 300 cities and municipalities globally.

I was pleased to join Gian Molinu, Chair of Pride Cymru; Len Richards, Chief Executive of Cardiff & Vale University Health Board; and Kerry Hood from Cardiff University in signing the Paris Declaration on 16 September 2020. The Paris Declaration outlines a set of commitments to achieve the objectives of Fast Track Cities:

- 90% of all people living with HIV will know their HIV status;
- 90% of all people with diagnosed HIV infection will receive sustained anti-retroviral therapy (ART); and
- 90% of all HIV-diagnosed people receiving sustained ART will achieve viral suppression.

These three objectives are the starting point on a trajectory towards reaching zero new HIV infections and zero AIDS-related deaths.

**Councillor Huw Thomas**  
**Leader of the Council**  
**17 September 2020**

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**CHILDREN & FAMILIES STATEMENT**

**AGENDA ITEM: 10**

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**Cardiff Family Advice and Support**

Calls to the Family Gateway during July 2020 totalled 1,109, with a further 1,053 calls made by Contact Officers to ensure that families and professionals received the most appropriate information and advice according to their identified needs.

The reduction in calls coincides with the end of the Coronavirus-Childcare Assistance Scheme, which closed in mid-July 2020. The Family Gateway were responsible for processing applications from key workers requiring childcare for pre-school children. Before the scheme closed, a total of 1,081 applications were processed, 115 of which were received in July 2020. As a result of the applications approved in July 2020, 65 children were placed with appropriate childcare providers.

Whilst calls reduced by 27% in comparison with figures reported for June 2020, the number of people supported by the team increased by 1%, with 663 people benefitting from support. 197 people were helped by providing information only, and 177 people provided additional information which was shared with the current case holder.

340 people were referred for advice and assistance from a range of agencies. Referrals to support teams within Early Help increased as detailed below:

<b>Team</b>	<b>Referrals (June 2020)</b>	<b>Referrals (July 2020)</b>	<b>% Increase</b>
Family Help	50	78	56%
Family Help Disability	8	14	75%
Cardiff Parenting	39	59	51%

The Family Help Team has continued to undertake assessments and provide interventions to families via telephone, email, WhatsApp and Skype. The opportunity to video chat is being offered to all family members where appropriate, and direct work with young people is largely being completed through video call. Opportunities to engage through text, WhatsApp and email is also offered to young people who do not feel comfortable talking over the phone. The team are continuing to provide activities and resources to families with instructions on how to use them, and are following this up with discussion and reflection with the families after delivery.

As noted, the team received a 56% increase in referrals via the Family Gateway during July 2020. A further 54 referrals were also received from Children's Services through the step-down arrangements. 48 of these were from the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH); 4 were from Intake & Assessment; and 2 were from Support4Families.

At present, 326 individuals are engaging with the team, 71 of whom had assessments completed during July 2020. The average intervention period for families is currently 10 weeks.

The Family Help Disability team are currently working with a total of 74 individuals. Development work is ongoing in relation to referral pathways, linking with partners from the Child Health and Disability team, and specialist health teams.

The Family Gateway is also the referral point for the Barnardo's Family Wellbeing Service. During July 2020, referrals made to the service increased to 72 from 34 the previous month.

Family Help Advisors have been supporting families with applications to the Save the Children Emergency Response Grants. Referrals are made through the Gateway by a range of professionals including Health Visitors and Housing and Money Advice staff. Family Help Advisors undertake an assessment of the family's needs, including an eligibility check, before making the application on their behalf. 53 applications were made and approved, resulting in 115 children benefitting from a total of £15,632 in grants for household goods.

The Support for Families Team have advertised for a permanent Young Carers Officer, and have developed family assessments and plans for the service. The feedback received from families during the height of the pandemic was very positive, with many comments focused on how grateful families were for simple things such as support with food parcels and having somebody to talk through their worries.

## **Cardiff Parenting**

Cardiff Parenting, comprising Cardiff Parenting 0-18 and Flying Start Parenting, continue to utilise virtual and digital media for delivery, while home visits and groups are suspended. During August 2020, 'doorstep drops' of resource packs were delivered to homes across Cardiff to enable families to engage in home activities such as cooking, crafting, story time, picnic packs, physical play packs and bug hunts. 1,914 contacts were made with parents and carers during August 2020 via the doorstep drops, with telephone and video calls also undertaken to deliver parenting programmes.

In August 2020:

- 60 new referrals were received;
- 1,243 telephone calls and doorstep drops were made with families in place of Flying Start Stay and Play, and our usual group-based summer activities;
- 101 parents accessed formal parenting programmes via weekly videos and calls which guide parents through the programme step by step;
- 232 telephone calls were made to families to deliver formal parenting programmes;
- 12 families received an initial assessment with an educational psychologist, to begin a bespoke one-to-one psychology-led parenting intervention;
- 168 phone calls were made with families by the bespoke one-to-one psychology-led parenting teams;
- 42 families successfully completed their parenting programme/intervention;
- Cardiff's Flying Start Facebook page and the new Cardiff Parenting Facebook page published daily activities for parents to try out with their children at home, along with advice for parents and young people. 20,000 users were reached in August through posts;

- Welsh Government published a video 'Expert advice of responding to children's behaviour', made by one of our educational psychologists, Dr Nicola Canale;
- Welsh Government featured one of our educational psychologist's information posters about parenting on their Give it Time website, and;
- Cardiff Parenting supported families with applications to the Save the Children Emergency Response Grants and Foodbank Vouchers, with 10 families benefitting.

### **The Childcare Offer**

Applications for the Childcare Offer opened on 10 August 2020 for parents with children eligible to access the offer in the spring and summer terms. By the end of August, 247 applications were received; however, 180 of these were early applications from parents only eligible for the offer from the start of the autumn term. These applications will open for processing from 1 September 2020, in line with Welsh Government guidance. 1,295 children benefitted from the Offer during the month, and 357 settings are now signed up to provide Childcare Offer places.

### **Childcare Provider Grant**

In August 2020, the Welsh Government announced a new grant to support the recovery of childcare providers, overseen by Local Authorities. The Childcare Provider Grant is available to support providers that have seen a reduction in net income in Quarter 1 of this financial year, compared to the same period for 2019/20.

Grant applicants are being encouraged to securely submit their application and supporting documents through External SharePoint. This is a new and exciting way for the Childcare Business Support Team to administer grant applications and, subject to positive feedback regarding the process from applicants, may lead to further developments across a number of grants operated by the team.

The grant went live on 24 August 2020 and, since then, 11 providers have indicated they are eligible and requested an application pack.

### **Corporate Parenting Strategy**

Virtual consultations have been undertaken to find out what issues matter to children and young people in Cardiff who are looked after or have had experience of care. Their views are central to the drafting of the new Corporate Parenting Strategy.

Two audio/digital 'MASH Ups' were held: one for those aged under 13 and the other for those aged over 13. The events presented children and young people with a range of options and ideas, and they were able to submit information back such as art work, written information and Chatterpix avatars. Participants were encouraged to provide information in a way that suited them, but were given the creative space and ideas to start the process.

The work has since been included in 'MASH Up' videos and, together with the information gathered, will be used to inform the new Corporate Parenting Strategy.

**Councillor Graham Hinchey**  
**Cabinet Member for Children & Families**  
**17 September 2020**

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**CLEAN STREETS, RECYCLING & ENVIRONMENT STATEMENT**

**AGENDA ITEM: 10**

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**Bereavement Services**

Bereavement Services staff have been working hard to restart additional services for the public that were previously suspended during the height of the Covid-19 pandemic. On 15 September 2020, the office at Thornhill re-opened to the public; appointments can now be made for the attended scattering of cremated remains and to choose a burial plot for pre-purchase. Measures have been put in place to protect both staff and the public, and to ensure social distancing. Public toilets will also be re-opened in Cardiff cemeteries following the introduction of an increased cleaning regime.

Following a review of Risk Assessments and changes to chapel layouts, the number of people able to attend a funeral service has been increased, with up to 30 people allowed in the Wenallt Chapel and 15 people in the Briwnant Chapel. 30 people can also attend a full burial, with 10 people able to attend the burial of cremated remains. The total of 30 is in line with legislation set by Welsh Government in relation to the maximum number of people permitted at a gathering.

Despite the challenges faced due to the pandemic, projects have still progressed and I am delighted to report that a scatter area into a flowing water course has now been completed, benefitting the Sikh and Hindu communities of Cardiff. This has been achieved in partnership with Llandaff Rowing Club, and provides a safe location on the River Taff for families to scatter ashes into water as is their tradition and belief. I am also pleased to report that works are ongoing to develop a new cemetery in Cardiff North, with the scheme running to schedule and due to be completed by January 2021.

Bereavement Services is, once again, a finalist in the annual Cemetery of the Year Awards in the Large Burial Ground Category. The outcome of this year's awards will be announced later next month. The team was successful in winning this prestigious award last year and are hoping to make it a back-to-back win.

**Cardiff Dogs Home**

At the start of lockdown, the Dogs Home put in place fostering arrangements for a number of the dogs in our care. This was a huge benefit to the dogs as it ensured that they maintained regular human interaction. I am pleased to report that 52 dogs have now been rehomed permanently as a direct result of the fostering scheme. We are about to start volunteering inductions again, under very controlled conditions, with five people at a time allowed to attend. This will help us get new walkers on board, and work through a backlog of 300 people waiting for inductions that were cancelled as a result of Covid-19.

The Dogs Home has recently agreed a new sponsorship deal with Burns Pet Foods, who will be supplying food for the dogs at the home free of charge. This has been made possible by working with our new friends group 'The Rescue Hotel'. The annual Cardiff Dogs Home calendar is also about to go into production and, in partnership with our friends group, will be available for sale online for the first time.

### **Air Quality**

In August 2020, the Council installed five real-time air quality monitors in and around the city centre to provide robust data in terms of air quality impacts for the Clean Air Plan. These monitors will also enable the Council to monitor the ongoing impacts of measures installed as part of the Covid-19 Recovery Plan. An additional permanent monitor has also been installed on Castle Street, and final commissioning works are ongoing. The data from these monitors will be made publicly available on the Council's website in due course.

We have also received confirmation that we can implement a Bus Retrofit Programme following state aid approval from the EU Commission. We will shortly be launching the scheme and inviting bus operators to apply for the £1.8m funding to fit approved technology that will improve the emissions from older buses that currently do not meet the latest emission standards.

### **Electric Vehicle Charging**

Work is ongoing to complete the initial phase of installing on-street residential charging points; the installation was delayed due to Covid-19. The work will commence in late autumn, once engagement with residents and local Members has been completed regarding the location of the charging points. Once this phase is complete, work will begin to obtain further funding from the Office for Low Emission Vehicles (OLEV) to continue to expand our network of chargers. Our Rapid Charger pilot will also be completed in the autumn, with progress on the remaining five sites recommencing and, hopefully, being completed by the end of the year.

### **Central Transport Services**

Central Transport Services (CTS) has recently taken over the management and control of the Authorised Testing Facility (ATF), which is located in the CTS modern workshop building at Coleridge Road. This is a purpose-built MOT testing facility for HGV trucks. In the past, the ATF has been leased to Watts Commercial to operate, and most income generated went into commercial operation. CTS has improved the facility with a new brake rolling road tester, and plans to operate the facility for three days a week to begin with, testing HGV vehicles from Cardiff and the surrounding area. They will also test the Council's own HGV vehicles, saving lane fees and travel costs. Testing commercial vehicles and carrying out other services, such as brake tests, light checks, pre-MOT checks and supplying brake test loads, will be a useful source of income for the Council moving forward. CTS has also been asked to carry out internal work within the Council for other services (e.g. Parks) and options are being explored to see how CTS can support these requests and help save money for the Council.

**Councillor Michael Michael**  
**Cabinet Member for Clean Streets, Recycling & Environment**  
**17 September 2020**

**CULTURE & LEISURE STATEMENT**

**AGENDA ITEM: 10**

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**Museum of Cardiff**

The Museum of Cardiff and Oasis partnered to co-host a virtual storytelling session during Refugee Week. Participants shared their stories of Cardiff, some having not long moved to the city before lockdown happened. Using the museum collections and community stories, the museum team encouraged the participants to share their Cardiff stories as a record for future generations to access and learn from. Participants reflected on what Refugee Week means to the individual and how this may differ in Covid-19 lockdown, as well as its importance in relation to the current Black Lives Matter protests. Both organisations are looking to continue this collaboration over the coming months, continuing to add to the historical and contemporary record and experiences of the city.

The Museum of Cardiff has been chosen to take part in a year-long programme with the British Museum to host and work with a trainee, build their skills so that they can gain a diploma in heritage and digital engagement. This is certainly timely as the museum has been increasing its online services under the Covid-19 lockdown, including online tours of the collection, social media takeovers with its third sector partners, online exhibitions, and an outreach project encouraging people to share their photographs and experiences of lockdown. The programme works to diversify the museum sector, so the new trainee will be aged 18-24, and will not have completed a university degree. Applications will launch soon.

The Museum is currently working on a suite of new learning resources exploring Cardiff's diverse community histories. Tying into the new curriculum areas of learning, the resources will showcase collections and personal stories donated to the museum and how everyday objects can help us learn and engage with important subjects, such as social justice, prejudice and racism. This work has become especially pertinent following the Black Lives Matter protests and the Council's decision to take down the statue of Sir Thomas Picton at City Hall.

The Museum team has trialled a series of virtual visits and sessions with Cardiff West Community High School, as part of CAER Big Dig and Cupboard Archaeology project: <https://caerheritageproject.com/get-involved-2/>. The museum delivered virtual learning sessions in June and July 2020, in partnership with CAER hidden hillfort and Action in Caerau and Ely (ACE). Working with Year 7 pupils from Cardiff West Community High School, pupils explored the objects found in their homes, in which the museum advised on researching objects, exhibition research and conducting oral history interviews, to document their family and local history.

Throughout lockdown, the Museum of Cardiff has continued to build a partnership with SightLife (formerly Cardiff Institute for the Blind) in order to further develop its accessibility, creating easy read museum resources for people with visual impairments. Over the summer, SightLife provided visual impairment awareness training to museum staff and volunteers, giving tips on how best to support someone with a visual impairment on a visit to the museum, as well as advice on website content.

The Museum of Cardiff has been shortlisted for a Family Friendly Museum Award in the 'best website activity' category for their 'My Museum' activities. While closed to the public during lockdown, the museum has continued its work telling the story of Cardiff through a range of online activities for all ages, with the shortlisting panel particularly pleased with the museum's work for young people who "were not well served elsewhere". The panel also praised the museum for their "clear presentation" and the way the range of topics "linked back to the museum's social history focus".

## **Parks**

Earlier this month, officers from the Parks Service, in partnership with local community groups, hosted independent judges on site visits at Forest Farm and Hailey Park as part of the Green Flag Award Scheme assessment process. The award scheme recognises and rewards well managed parks world-wide, the sites assessed do not currently hold the status and the outcome of the assessment will be communicated to the Council in October 2020. Green Flag status has proved beneficial to the Council over time as it is now a pre-requisite with many grant funding bodies and has enabled grant awards for Parc Cefn Onn and Flat Holm Island.

Towards the end of last month we were, once again challenged by a storm event in the shape of Storm Francis, which brought strong winds causing disruption across our city, and I was pleased with the level of preparedness and response by our Tree Management and wider Parks team. In excess of 150 calls were taken over a 24-hour period and it is anticipated that the full recovery process will extend to the end of September/early October 2020.

As the tree planting season approaches, officers are preparing plans for our 2020/21 programme. In addition to our core Parks and Street Tree programmes, officers continue to be active in seeking private sponsorship/donors and submitting grant applications with partner organisations, which include applications under The Woodland Emergency Tree Fund, administered by the Woodland Trust and the Climate Emergency Fund administered by Trees for Cities.

## **Sport & Leisure**

It has been a challenging but much needed period to prepare our leisure, sport and recreational facilities for reopening open post the First Minister's announcement in July 2020. Whilst there have been modifications in service provision/programming, we now have five of our leisure centres managed by GLL back open and also the Cardiff International White Water Centre, Channel View and Cardiff Riding School. Robust risk assessments to protect staff and customers have been established and there is a growing confidence from users in returning to gyms and other forms of physical activity, which is helping to improve healthy lifestyles, post lockdown.

## **Children's Play**

During lockdown, the Children's Play team delivered a key food larder project for the residents of Splott and Tremorfa. The team moved into school settings throughout the summer holidays to provide essential opportunities for children in most need of support and constructive activity at a time when children had so much time away from these settings.

**Councillor Peter Bradbury  
Cabinet Member for Culture & Leisure  
17 September 2020**

**COUNCIL: 24 SEPTEMBER 2020**

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**EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT & SKILLS STATEMENT**

**AGENDA ITEM: 10**

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**School Restart**

Schools have started the new academic year with a phased reintroduction of pupils. Using two planning days at the start of term, schools focused initially key pupil groups: Year 7, exam groups and vulnerable pupils, with all pupils ultimately brought back during the first two weeks of term. This allowed schools to build on good practice developed during the catch-up period of operating, within a new framework of health and safety guidelines. From Monday 14 September 2020, it is mandatory that all pupils attend school. To ensure the safety of staff and pupils, schools have been using operational guidelines issued by the Council that build on guidance from Welsh Government on the safe operation of schools. All schools have been supported by a link EMT officer and a nominated Health & Safety officer.

**School Catering**

From Monday 21 September 2020, the majority of school kitchens in Cardiff will be open and providing school lunch. However, there will be 29 schools across the City where pupils eligible for Free School Meals (FSM) will continue to receive either a supermarket voucher or BACS payment. The Council's School Catering Team will be working with these remaining schools to facilitate a safe return of school meal provision from 5 October 2020. After this date, we are aware that a small number of schools may decide to continue not having a catering function; for these cases, the voucher or BACS payment scheme will remain in place for FSM pupils.

**School Transport**

Following successful bids for Bus Emergency Support (BES) funding from Welsh Government, nearly all school bus services were able to operate from the beginning of September 2020. Significant investment has been made for additional PPE for providers, as well as face masks and sanitisers for pupils. Face masks have been supplied by the Council for all secondary-aged pupils travelling on the dedicated contracted school bus services. Officers are working with schools and bus companies to ensure pupils comply with wearing a face mask whilst travelling.

Each school bus is being treated as a 'bubble' as they have the same passengers travelling on a daily basis. All Additional Learning Needs School Transport have also been issued with appropriate PPE which meets the needs of the pupils and transport staff, and again each vehicle is being treated as a bubble.

This has been extremely challenging to co-ordinate but the Council's home to school transport team have worked hard with schools and transport providers to restart all home to school transport arrangements safely. Officers are monitoring and working with the schools and contractors to ensure that pupils and staff have the appropriate infection control measures in place.

### **Admissions**

Despite the significant challenges presented by the lockdown, all offers for school places for the academic year 2020/21 were processed on time. All but a small number of appeals were also heard virtually before the end of the August 2020, with those remaining due to be completed by early October 2020.

The 2021/22 Admissions round will commence with the opening of secondary applications on 28 September 2020, followed by the opening of primary applications on 16 November 2020. A new engagement campaign will be launched simultaneously to support families with the application process. The campaign aims to increase the number of applications received on time and to encourage applicants to use all their preferences from the outset. Campaign materials will be available via social media, the website and in hard copy and will be distributed with the support of our schools, hubs and community groups. The campaign includes a two minute child friendly animation, which will be available in 8 languages. I will ensure that all members are provided with full details of the campaign when it is launched to help promote it on their own social media.

### **Feedback on Summer Provision**

Over 400 children attended summer provision arranged by the Council and facilitated across 13 school sites during the school holiday period. In addition to this provision, the Council's Child Health and Disabilities Team facilitated a bespoke summer holiday provision for 26 young people. Positive feedback was received from the young people, their families and other agencies in relation to the provision.

### **Vulnerable Pupil Support**

Support services (education psychology, specialist teachers, LACE team, Closing the Gaps, Healthy Schools and the SEN/ALN casework team) are continuing to support schools, including face-to-face work in schools/settings. To reduce the risk of cross contamination between sites, support services have been advised to visit no more than one school or setting each day. Specialists will therefore work with schools to prioritise visits, and will continue to offer remote support between visits. Support will be socially distanced wherever possible. Panels, forums and training events will continue to be held online.

### **Additional Learning Needs (ALN) Reform**

On 3 September 2020, the Welsh Government Minister for Education, Kirsty Williams MS, issued a Written Statement providing an update on the position in relation to Additional Learning Needs (ALN) reform in Wales. The new ALN system will focus on ensuring that all children and young people, who require additional support to meet their needs, have their support planned for and protected. The reforms will place the learner and their parents or carers at the heart of the process.

This will help to ensure that all learners with additional learning needs reach their full potential.

The Minister acknowledged that the last few months have been an extremely difficult time due to the pressures and disruptions caused by the Covid-19 pandemic. However, the implementation of the ALN Act remains a government priority, and there will be no further extension to the timescales for implementation. The Minister confirmed that:

- Implementation will begin in September 2021, for completion by August 2024.
- The final ALN Code and operational guidelines will be laid before the Senedd in February 2021.
- The timeline for commencement of the three statutory posts is unchanged, with the posts expected to be in place by January 2021. The three posts are
  - ALN Coordinator, or ALNCO (a school post);
  - Designated Education Clinical Lead Officers, or DECLO (a health post); and
  - Early Years ALN Lead Officers, or EY ALNLO (a local authority post)
- To accompany the commencement of the statutory roles, regulations on the ALN Co-ordinator role and guidance on all three statutory roles will be issued. The guidance will include text from aspects of the revised Code related to these roles and will clarify their responsibilities.
- To support the implementation of the Act from September 2021, information will also be provided around the implementation and transitional arrangements.

The Minister has also launched a consultation on proposals to allow representatives to act on behalf of young people, and parents of children, who lack mental capacity, when exercising their rights under the Additional Learning Needs and Education Tribunal (Wales) Act 2018. The Welsh Government will be working with children in Wales to ensure young people who lack capacity are targeted and supported to engage with the consultation. A regional implementation plan is in place to continue preparing for the reform.

### **Qualifications 2020**

Given the decision to cancel examinations in the summer as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, the WJEC developed a process to allow grades to be based on Centre Assessment Grades and Rank Orders submitted by teachers.

Following a consultation with young people and education professionals, conducted by Qualifications Wales, the WJEC developed two statistical standardisation models which were applied as part of the process for the issuing of grades for the summer 2020 exam series.

On 17 August 2020, the Welsh Government Minister for Education confirmed that A-Level, AS, GCSE, Skills Challenge Certificate and Welsh Baccalaureate grades in Wales would be awarded on the basis of the Centre Assessment Grade, if the Standardised Grade was lower.

Results received for WJEC qualifications show that performance in Cardiff is above the Welsh average and in some measures significantly improved on previous years (*Note – vocational qualifications are not yet available*).

## GCSE

- Cardiff LA pass rates exceed the Wales average for all three published pass rates for GCSE results.
- Nearly 1 in every 3 grades is either an A\* or A grade in the authority.
- More than 3 in every 4 grades is above a C grade in Cardiff.

	2020 LA	Variation from 2019	2020 Wales	Variation from 2019
% A*-G	99.6	+3.4	99.6	+2.4
% A*-C	77.7	+11.5	75.7	+12.9
% A*-A	31.7	+8.5	27.4	+9.0

## A-level

- Cardiff LA pass rates exceed the Wales average for all three published pass rates for GCSE results.
- Almost 50% of grades are A\* - A in Cardiff.

	2020 LA Revised	Variation (Revised and 2019)	2020 LA Modelled	Variation (Modelled and 2019)	2020 Wales Revised	Variation (Revised and 2019)
% A*-E	99.9	+1.7	99.3	+1.1	99.9	+1.3
% A*-C	94.3	+15.2	82.0	+2.9	91.8	+12.0
% A*-A	47.3	+16.7	32.3	+1.6	42.3	+12.4

The Welsh Government has outlined that *“Qualification awards data will not be used to report on attainment outcomes at a school, local authority or regional consortium level and must not be used to hold schools to account for their learners’ outcomes.”* Reporting requirements have been amended to reduce the requirement on schools for 2019/20. It was also announced that an independent review of events following the cancellation of exams will be undertaken to inform the 2020/21 series. Qualifications Wales and the WJEC have also published details of adaptations for the Summer 2021 examinations series, which can be found at:

<https://www.wjec.co.uk/home/summer-2021-adaptations>

## Youth Support

Youth Service teams continued to support young people over the summer, by being available from 9am–9pm on results days to support young people who rang the Youth Service Helpline, and holding one-to-one appointments with young people to support their next steps.

Street-based teams have a presence within communities and are making contact with young people to offer support. Furthermore, the Pupil Inclusion Project is providing activities to engage the most vulnerable young people, alongside offering support to overcome individual barriers to progression.

Additionally, Youth Mentors are supporting referrals to Into Work Services for those young people who are looking for work. Support has also been provided for Year 11 pupils via Youth Mentors, who have been making contact virtually.

**Councillor Sarah Merry**  
**Cabinet Member for Education, Employment & Skills**  
**17 September 2020**

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**FINANCE, MODERNISATION & PERFORMANCE STATEMENT**

**AGENDA ITEM: 10**

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**Covid-19 Furlough Scheme**

The Council has retained 412 employees on the furlough scheme as of 1 September 2020. The position is frequently reviewed, and staff are being brought back into work as and when possible. Affected staff are predominantly from arts and leisure services, as well as school catering.

**Into Work Services**

To enhance and scale up our Into Work Services, additional external funding has been secured, totalling £900k. This includes:

- £600k to increase one-to-one into work mentoring, employer liaison and self-employment advice resources;
- £100k to support young people specifically in the Butetown area of the city; and
- £200k to increase the digital tablet loan/ gifting scheme, to support people who are job searching or training.

Officers continue to bid for additional funding to ensure that any increased demand on services can be met and the needs of the most vulnerable supported. The team is working closely with internal and external partners, as well as businesses, to ensure that people's journeys into work are as seamless as possible.

**ChatBot**

The Council continues to develop its digital services to provide citizens with a choice of how they interact with us, supporting the aims laid out in the Cardiff's Digital strategy to promote Digital First and make services as accessible as possible.

BOBi, the Council's Chatbot, continues to have conversations with citizens, offering information on waste services, taking reports of fly-tipping and directing citizens to the right information on our website. BOBi's skills have been increased and it is now able to order recycling bags on behalf of the citizen or direct them to the nearest stockist. In development is a proof of concept to utilise BOBi's conversational skills and integrate them with other virtual assistants, such as Amazon's Alexa, to enable citizens with these devices to order bags or get information related to their waste collections without having to go online. Since going live, BOBi has had over 24,000 conversations with 83% of citizens rating the experience positively.

## **CardiffGov – Mobile App and Website**

August 2020 saw another increase in downloads for the mobile app with bookings for bulky waste collections featuring in the latest release. The mobile app downloads reached 32,467 during the month and saw a 3.5% increase in the number of downloads from the month before. We are currently developing bookings for our Household Waste and Recycling Centres, which are due for release in November 2020. Reports of missed waste collections are also planned for release by February 2021. All services that are built and released on the mobile app are made available simultaneously on the Council's website.

The Council's website had 214,000 visitors viewing 854,000 pages of information during August. The website is undergoing some aspects of re-design to ensure adherence to the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines. A new version of the website is due for release towards the end of this month, improving navigation and ensuring that content and services are accessible for all.

## **Smart City of the Year Award**

Cardiff Council has been shortlisted among the top three finalists in the 'Smart City of the Year Award' category of this year's Digital Leader 100 Awards. These awards, which are in their eighth year, celebrate individuals and organisations from the public, private and non-profit sectors who are demonstrating a pioneering and sustainable approach to digital transformation in the UK.

The 'Smart City of the Year Award' category is for cities that can prove they use data and technology to create efficiencies, improve sustainability, promote economic development, and enhance quality of life factors for people living and working in them. The award celebrates cities that have advanced their Smart City agenda fastest and furthest in the past year.

Cardiff focussed its award submission on areas such as the deployment of its fibre infrastructure, its city-wide deployment of smart lighting, the roll-out of its cycle highways and its innovative use of smart watches to monitor the heart rate of an elderly person and identify when they are at risk of a fall. The virtual award ceremony is due to take place on 15 October 2020 when the winner will be announced.

## **Cardiff Creative Network**

The Council has received confirmation of £500,000 funding from Welsh Government to enhance the infrastructure that transports fibre optic broadband around the city and to pave the way for the provision of gigabit broadband speeds for the city's residents. This, in turn, will support the Cardiff Creative Network and assist us in moving ahead with plans to put culture, creativity and innovation at the heart of the city's development by offering faster broadband for the creative industries in Cardiff and the wider region. It will also have benefits for our active travel plans in the city by enabling data to be collected more easily which could be used to calculate traffic flow, pedestrian footfall and cycle usage, as well as monitoring air quality.

**Councillor Chris Weaver**  
**Cabinet Member for Finance, Modernisation & Performance**  
**17 September 2020**

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**HOUSING & COMMUNITIES STATEMENT**

**AGENDA ITEM: 10**

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**Update on Shielding and Food Support**

Shielding was paused by the Welsh Government on 16 August 2020, which meant that the delivery of Welsh Government funded food box parcels ceased; however, supermarket online shopping priority slots were still available. Council officers made phone calls to each resident that had been receiving food parcels and letters were sent to all others that were required to shield, offering help and support post-shielding. Visits were made to those who could not be contacted by phone.

At its peak, over 14,500 people in Cardiff were required to shield. This number fluctuated daily and, on average, there were 2,000 residents at any one time in Cardiff receiving a food box from the Welsh Government. From 23 March to 24 August 2020, 18,772 outgoing calls were made and 15,720 calls were received by the Council's Adviceline, with 1,449 home visits also being completed. Over 7,000 additional well-being phone calls were also made by volunteers to those that had been shielding the longest.

Food and essentials parcels can still be delivered by the Council's food operation to residents without funds and who are required to self-isolate. The numbers of parcels being delivered are far lower than during lockdown, but contingency plans are in place if there is a sudden spike in demand. Residents who are not self-isolating can access Foodbank vouchers from Hubs across Cardiff.

On the back of the success of the 'Together for Cardiff' appeal, council officers continue to meet regularly with Cardiff Third Sector Council, Cardiff Foodbank, Food Cardiff and anchor organisation representatives. This will help volunteers across the city continue to be supported in a coordinated way, whilst also ensuring the safeguarding of volunteers and residents. The Volunteer Cardiff website is still updated regularly and continues to be used as a resource for residents and organisations.

**Hubs and Libraries**

I am really pleased to report that the refurbishment works to two of our latest/newest Hubs has been completed. On 17 September 2020, I joined some of the ward members at both Whitchurch and Rhydypennau, where the buildings have benefitted from small extensions and full refurbishments. They look amazing and it's just a real pity that we can't yet open them fully to the public.

I have also circulated to members an update on the work being undertaken at our Hubs to adapt and increase the provision of services, in particular, those provided by the Council's Into Work service, which are in high demand due to the number of people falling out of work during the continuing Covid-19 pandemic.

### **Homelessness**

Work to deliver our new vision for homelessness services is progressing well, with the first new accommodation project due to open next week. This will offer good quality en-suite accommodation to single homeless people, with 24-hour support services on site.

I am very pleased to announce that the Welsh Government have indicated that they will be supporting our vision by providing £12 million in capital funding, allowing us to deliver good quality temporary and supported accommodation. This accommodation will help deliver a number of projects, including three exciting new schemes for homeless families.

As we all know, providing accommodation alone is not enough to address homelessness, as many of the people affected have complex underlying health issues. Cardiff has already developed a multi-agency approach to meeting this need and I am very pleased to announce that we will soon be adding to the membership of the multidisciplinary outreach team. This will include additional counsellors/ therapeutic workers, an occupational therapist and a psychologist. I want to thank the Welsh Government for making this possible with additional grant income.

### **Waungron Road Housing and Transport Hub Development**

Design work for a new council housing development, combined with a new transport hub, at Waungron Road in Llandaff is moving forward, with public consultation expected to commence in November 2020. The scheme will deliver around 50 one and two bed flats, as well as some ground floor commercial units. It also includes a new transport hub, bus interchange and green infrastructure. Every new property will be built to high standards, including the use of renewable energy to help tackle fuel poverty and each property having direct access to outdoor space.

A full planning application for the housing scheme and transport hub will be submitted following the public consultation process and development is expected to start next year. Transport for Wales will begin improvement works to the existing retaining wall in November 2020, which is required ahead of the commencement of the scheme.

### **Community Safety**

Over the last six months we have been confronted with a fast-changing and complex community safety environment. This has required both a pre-emptive and highly responsive approach to community safety issues in the city. We have been challenged to develop and improve public services and collaborative working under significant pressure, and we have faced this challenge head-on.

The community safety governance structures that we put in place during lockdown have ensured that we were well equipped to respond quickly and effectively to this new environment. Moments of crisis like this can drive innovation and collaboration and this is certainly true of the incredible partnership between the Council, Police and

Health services in keeping our city safe throughout the pandemic. In particular, the enhanced integration of community safety and safeguarding has focused our community safety approach on preventative services and supporting the most vulnerable. This will provide a robust collaborative model for Cardiff's recovery from the pandemic in the months ahead, and ensure a joined up model of public safety, crime prevention and safeguarding in the longer-term.

**Councillor Lynda Thorne**  
**Cabinet Member for Housing & Communities**  
**17 September 2020**

**INVESTMENT & DEVELOPMENT STATEMENT**

**AGENDA ITEM: 10**

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**Economic Impact of COVID-19**

Councillors will be aware of the significant adverse impact that the Coronavirus (COVID-19) has had on the economy across the United Kingdom and, regrettably, Cardiff has not escaped the economic trauma that the pandemic has dispatched. During August, over 40,000 Cardiff residents remained on furlough and the city continues to witness significant increases in unemployment locally.

Councillors will also be aware of the considerable amount of work that has been undertaken to mitigate the impact of the virus on businesses and the people they employ. I am pleased to report that the evidence suggests that the measures the Council has put in place have resulted in city centre activity recovering faster than that experienced in most other similar UK cities. In responding to the crisis, the Council continues to work closely with Welsh Government and together we have been able to secure financial support directly to new start-up business that had previously missed out on Government support.

Councillors will be reassured by the healthy levels of interest in investment in Cardiff that the Council continues to receive. The Council continues to enjoy high occupancy levels of the Council's workshops and at CBTC. Through the Town Centre Loan scheme, we are also supporting investment in new fin-tech businesses in the city, a key part of the Administration's economic strategy, which will see both the provision of new space for the sector as well as direct support for job creation.

**Coal Exchange**

The Council understands that the Official Receiver is working with investors in a bid to achieve a solution that will deliver a positive outcome for the building. Although the Council is not involved in those discussions, Council officials continue to speak with the parties in an attempt to keep abreast of developments. Councillors will be encouraged that the proposals being discussed between the parties include plans to leverage further investment in the building itself to secure its future, as well as the potential to open the hotel in the near future for staying visitors.

## **Dumballs Road**

Councillors will be aware that the Administration has recently taken another significant step to progress the proposed regeneration of Dumballs Road following the Cabinet decision to use its landholding and its powers to complete the land assembly necessary to deliver the project. This development will create another direct link between the city centre and the Bay area, regenerating what has for some time been low density, low value industrial use into an area that will provide jobs and homes for the people of the city.

## **Cardiff Bay – the next chapter**

Councillors will be aware that the procurement process for the proposed Indoor Arena has continued during the pandemic. I am delighted that there has been no diminution in the commitment to deliver a world class, high quality facility demonstrated by the two organisations that won through to the final round. The procurement process will conclude in the near future, following which I will table a Cabinet report at the October Cabinet that will ask Cabinet colleagues to decide which of the two bids should take the project forward. Councillors will acknowledge that this will mark a key milestone in delivering long awaited piece of city infrastructure.

In October, I will also table a report outlining a new masterplan for Atlantic Wharf that will provide the platform for a wider phase of the development for Cardiff Bay that will generate a further round of investment that will cement the city's waterfront as an exemplar urban visitor destination.

**Councillor Russell Goodway**  
**Cabinet Member for Investment & Development**  
**17 September 2020**

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**SOCIAL CARE, HEALTH & WELL-BEING STATEMENT**

**AGENDA ITEM: 10**

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**Community Resource Team – Cardiff Cares**

A lovely piece has been developed by carer Bill Bellamy describing his journey into domiciliary care. His journey began when he saw an advert on social media and, following a few days contemplation, he answered the advert. Bill describes what he has learnt through the great training and support he has received whilst preparing to work as a domiciliary care worker, and talks about how rewarding he finds the work. This is a great example of how social media is supporting the Cardiff community to access jobs, as well as the reach that social media has. It also evidences the great work that the Community Resource Team are doing to develop each staff cohort, particularly through its induction and training programme, alongside the positive work that domiciliary care staff are doing.

**'Thank you Cardiff Carers' Campaign**

Since 11 September 2020, a 'Thank You Cardiff Carers' banner has been displayed on Cardiff Castle. Arranged by the Council's commissioning team and training team, this is a thank you to all carers and care staff for their work supporting loved ones throughout the pandemic. A letter is also being sent to all providers to commend everyone involved for their commitment to social care throughout the pandemic, and their help protecting vulnerable citizens. As part of the thank you message, the Council is asking residents to share their appreciation on social media using the hashtag #ThankYouCardiffCareWorkers.

**Ty Canna**

Ty Canna continue to provide support for people, despite not currently being able to provide services in the usual way. The team have been thinking outside the box to provide services for citizens accessing programmes, and have partnered with organisations to support and promote these.

Currently, Ty Canna continues to facilitate 22 groups virtually, including peer group counselling, cookery groups, language classes, drama and pampering sessions. Exercise groups have also been facilitated by a member of the team, and strong links have been developed between Ty Canna and Sports Cardiff, with ideas afoot to support people in the future.

A network of businesses have supported the mental health outreach service by providing tablet computers to support more people to get online. IT support has been provided by other service users, including young people, who have supported those who have not used the internet before.

Work to set up a BAME (Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic) Group with Diverse Cymru began prior to the pandemic. This work has continued virtually throughout the pandemic, bringing service users from BAME backgrounds together for support. The group has been a success and continues to grow.

Funding has been secured to set up counselling services to support people suffering with anxiety due to Covid-19. This includes three sessions for individuals, and peer group support. Ty Canna has also produced a newsletter that is reaching over 230 service users each month. Some great feedback has been received from service users and Ty Canna's work is really making a difference to people who are unable to access services in the usual way, and continues to provide a lifeline to those who are isolated.

**Councillor Susan Elsmore**  
**Cabinet Member for Social Care, Health & Well-being**  
**17 September 2020**

**STRATEGIC PLANNING & TRANSPORT STATEMENT**

**AGENDA ITEM: 10**

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**Recovery Strategy**

Footway widening has been carried out in four additional shopping areas – Pontcanna Street in Riverside, High Street in Llandaff, Merthyr Road in Whitchurch and near the junction with Hermon Hill in Tongwynlais. This will support local businesses by facilitating social distancing through providing additional outdoor space. We are currently reviewing a number of different locations with a view to providing similar footway widening in other locations.

Temporary 20mph speed limits are currently being installed in district and local shopping centres across the city and this work is ongoing. These areas include:

Phase 1 – currently being delivered:

- Penarth Road / Clare Road
- Cowbridge Road East, Riverside
- Station Road, Llandaff North
- Merthyr Road, Whitchurch
- High Street, Llandaff
- Rhiwbina Village
- Station Road, Llanishen
- Wilson Road, Ely
- Grand Avenue, Ely

Phase 2 – to be delivered following Phase 1:

- Fairwater Green (20mph plus one-way)
- Bute Street / James Street
- Bute Street (Loudon Square area)
- Caerau Lane
- Cowbridge Road West
- Maelfa, Llanedeyrn
- Birchgrove Road / Caerphilly Road
- Countisbury Avenue
- Rhydypenau Crossroads
- Cyncoed Road
- Gabalfa Avenue
- Lansdowne Road

**School Streets**

When pupils returned to school at the end of the summer term, the Council introduced temporary 'School Street' road closures outside a number of schools in the city which regularly experience problems with traffic and parking. The closures were intended to make social distancing easier and safer. The closures were warmly welcomed by pupils, parents, residents and local councillors. As a follow-up to these measures, on 21 September 2020, the Council is implementing formal School Streets outside the following nine schools:

- Bryn Hafod Primary
- Creigiau Primary
- Glan-yr-Afon Primary
- Gladstone & St Monica's Primaries
- Lakeside Primary
- St Cuthberts Primary
- St Peters Primary
- Tredegarville Primary
- Willowbrook Primary

For each scheme, Experimental Traffic Regulation Orders have been made which will restrict vehicular access to specific streets or sections of street outside schools during the morning drop-off and afternoon pick-up periods. The restrictions will be enforced with CCTV enforcement cameras. Residents living on the streets will be issued with permits enabling them to leave or access the street during the times when the restrictions apply. Blue badge holders will also be allowed access. Anyone without a permit or blue badge detected driving within the area of street covered by an Order during restricted periods will receive a Penalty Charge Notice.

To help reduce inconsiderate and hazardous parking and help make roads safer for children, the Council is also introducing CCTV enforcement cameras outside 16 other schools:

- Allensbank Primary
- Millbank Primary
- Ninian Park Primary
- Pontprennau Primary
- Radnor Primary
- Radyr Primary
- Rhiwbeina Primary
- Roath Park Primary
- Severn Road Primary
- St Cadoc's Primary
- St John Lloyd Primary
- St Mary's Primary
- Stacey Primary
- Ysgol Gymraeg Pwll Coch/Fitzalan High
- Ysgol Gymraeg Treganna
- Ysgol y Berllan Deg

The cameras will monitor vehicles parking illegally such as stopping on Keep Clear zig zag markings. Penalty Charge Notices will be issued to any drivers detected stopping or parking on the Keep Clear markings.

## **Active Travel**

The walking and cycling route from the ambulance station on North Road to Excelsior Drive has now reopened following works to upgrade the route. The traffic-free route includes over a kilometre of cycle track with kerb segregation from an improved footway and improvements to street lighting throughout the route. Positive feedback has been received from a number of users.

Funding has been secured for the installation of additional on-street cycle parking and the provision of cycle parking for schools, with work underway to identify appropriate locations. Progress is also continuing to be made on the permanent and pop-up cycle routes as outlined in the Recovery Strategy.

In addition, I was pleased to take part recently in an interview for BusinessNewsWales that formed part of a Built Environment article entitled, 'Cycling and the Two-wheeled Revolution'. We discussed how Cardiff is becoming one of the leading cities for cycling in the UK. A recording of the interview can be found here: <https://vimeo.com/456887163>

## **e-Scooter Trials**

The Council has noted the UK Government Department for Transport's plans to expand trials of rental e-scooters in England, Scotland and Wales and the guidance issued for local areas and operators for the implementation of rental e-scooter trials.

We are currently implementing a major programme of transport infrastructure schemes in response to the Covid-19 crisis and to deliver the commitments set out in the Transport and Clean Air White Paper published earlier this year. Delivering these grant-funded projects quickly and without delay is the Council's number one priority currently and will require every available resource within the Council's transport and highways teams, as well as key delivery functions such as legal services and procurement. In light of these commitments, the Council is currently unable to undertake the work that would be necessary to implement and manage a trial of rental e-scooters in Cardiff.

Nevertheless, we will be interested to learn from the experience of trials that take place in other UK cities as a result of the Department for Transport's initiative. This will help inform our consideration of the contribution that e-scooters might make to Cardiff's future transport mix. We will wait for the outcomes of any such trials and consider any relevant evidence emerging from these schemes before making any decisions in respect of e-scooter rental and any related procurement process for potential operators in Cardiff.

## **PATROL PARC (Parking Annual Reports by Councils) Awards 2020**

The Council's Planning, Transport & Environment directorate has received a 'Highly Commended for Reporting: Innovation and New Services' in this year's PATROL PARC (Parking Annual Reports by Councils) Awards.

The awards recognise Local Authorities for the publishing of informative, engaging and transparent Annual Reports on their civil parking and traffic enforcement activities. Chosen from among a huge number of high-quality entries, the Council's report really stood out with a number of strong examples of forward-thinking

initiatives, including the installation of bay sensors and the ParkCardiff app; the 'Park and Stride' permit scheme to improve parking issues around schools; and the roll-out of Electric Vehicle charging points in the city. Due to Covid-19, the awards ceremony will be held in 2021 at the House of Commons in London.

**Councillor Caro Wild**

**Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning & Transport**

**17 September 2020**